

**GOVERNOR'S P-20 COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
General Meeting – December 7, 2009**

**Location:** 1700 W. Washington  
Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, AZ

**Members Present:** Dr. Carol Peck, Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, Dr. Pauline Begay, Dean Gray, Dr. Karen Butterfield for Superintendent Tom Horne, Dr. Michael Kearns, Dr. Marv Lamer, Paul Luna, LaVelle McCoy, Colleen Niccum, Dr. April Osborn, DeAnna Rowe, Joel Sideman, Vince Yanez, and Dr. Jim Zaharis

**Members Absent:** J. Elliott Hibbs and Lisa Graham Keegan

**Guest Presenters:** Cathleen Barton, Jack Lunsford, Dave Howell, Marc Osborn, Reggie Gilyard, John Pineda, and Jody Foldes

**Staff Present:** Debra Raeder, Karla Phillips, Dr. Deb Duvall, and Jessica Garner

**Council members and invited guests participated in a light luncheon from 12:15-1:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, and Objectives**

Dr. Carol Peck called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed the Council members, Task Force Chairs, and BCG Team to the meeting. Dr. Peck asked the members, Chairs, and BCG Team to briefly introduce themselves.

Dr. Peck advised the public that, if they wished to address the Council, a "request to speak" form needed to be submitted to staff in order to be recognized during the Call to the Public portion of the meeting.

Dr. Peck indicated that the purpose of today's meeting is to provide a brief overview of the final Race to the Top requirements and scoring rubric; discuss a summary vision and plans for reform aligned to the final RTTT requirements; and to get specific, constructive input on draft recommendations to improve Arizona's education system. Dr. Peck reminded the Council that the meeting could run past the anticipated time of 4:00 p.m. but that it was important to take the time necessary so that all of questions and concerns are addressed as we move forward with the RTTT application.

Dr. Peck also indicated that Governor Brewer would join the meeting telephonically at about 3:00 p.m. to share some thoughts with the Council and that we would pause at that time for her comments.

## **2. RTTT Process Update**

Dr. Deb Duvall provided the Council with an update on the RTTT process indicating that the final regulations had been issued and that the deadline for submitting the grant is now January 18, 2010. Dr. Duvall reminded the Council that on November 9th they provided input on the "strawman" recommendations in each assurance area and reviewed broad initiatives that cut across assurance areas that will define the grant application. Dr. Duvall reminded the Council that today's work is to get input on the draft plan for reform that: builds on the "strawman" proposal; aligns with guidance on the final RTTT requirements; provides greater detail on implementation; and incorporates bold and innovative ideas. An overview of the final application will be presented to the Council in early January.

## **3. RTTT Final Guidance/Scoring System**

Reggie Gilyard, Boston Consulting Group, provided the Council with information on the RTTT final guidance and scoring system. Final requirements remained largely the same from the draft guidance with several notable changes which include:

- Addition of State Success Factors category of criteria
- Strong incentive to adopt the Common Core by Aug. 2, 2010
- More prescriptive approach to assessments criterion
- No. 1 emphasis (138 points) on developing great teachers and leaders
- Softened language around school interventions
- Charter criteria moved out of Struggling Schools and into General category

Mr. Gilyard reviewed the application's detailed scoring rubric and extensive list of performance measures and evidence.

## **4. Discussion and Input: Updates from Task Force Chairs**

Dr. Peck indicated that the Council would be hearing the updates on the work of the Task Forces and that it was anticipated that these will be interactive presentations, with a brief report from each of the Task Force Chairs followed immediately by discussion with the Council. The BCG Team is also available to answer any questions or to provide more detailed information as requested by the Council members.

### **Standards and Assessments:**

Joe O'Reilly of the Standards and Assessments Task Force, presented the updated strawman recommendations to the Council, which includes:

#### **Common Standards**

- Adopt Common Core standards by Aug. 2, 2010
- Align early education standards to the Common Core

#### **Common Assessments**

- Take leadership role in convening states to develop common summative assessments

#### **Support Structure**

- Construct online tools for formative assessments
- Ensure LEA-driven interim assessments
- Provide assessment specialists and academic coaches
- Provide full program of summative assessments
- End social promotion, supported by increased student interventions, professional development, etc.
- Provide for high school students to "move on when ready"

Council members engaged in discussion regarding the recommendations around the areas of: the role of Career and Technical education in the “move on when ready” concept; importance of involving higher education in defining appropriate placement tests; appropriate advising opportunities for students; need for a clearly definite process to identify students who are ready to move on; need for appropriate funding mechanisms; and the timeframe for implementing Common Core standards and assessments.

### **Great Teachers, Great Leaders**

Dave Howell, Chair of the Great Teachers Great Leaders Task Force, presented the updated strawman recommendations to the Council, which includes:

#### **High Quality Pathways**

- Provide active support and increase frequency for proposal submission
- Provide reasonable course-load-move on when ready
- Provide early childhood and SEI endorsements; pathways to principal
- Provide E-learning certificate

#### **Improving Effectiveness**

- Ensure teacher and principal effectiveness based on at least 4 rating categories, with student growth a significant factor
- Ensure PD closely linked to evaluations with the necessary tools and supports
- Strengthen accountability of PBC plans, based on student performance and best practices from PBC task force and programs like Career Ladder

#### **Equitable Distribution**

- Implement Governor’s Distinguished Educator Corp
- Ensure supportive leadership/ environment
- Address barriers to move to struggling schools and reciprocity constrains
- Expand programs for hard-to-staff subjects (e.g., STEM, special needs)

#### **Data-Driven Support/ Programs**

- Evaluate prep programs and alternative certificate programs
- Provide effective support informed by data
- Establish a statewide mentor program

Council members engaged in discussion regarding the recommendations around the areas of: changes to the evaluation systems, specifically the “significant portion of the evaluation based on student growth” concept; importance of appropriate types of data used; how it could affect teachers; and how essential it is.

## **Supporting Struggling Schools**

Marc Osborn, Chair of the Supporting Struggling Schools Task Force, presented the updated strawman recommendations to the Council, which includes:

### **Building Capacity**

- Research core - dedicate resources to understand reasons schools struggle
  - Early warning system
  - Teacher, parent, and student surveys
  - Approach to alternate schools
- Model data use
  - Needs-based professional development
  - Formative assessment tools
- Implement Governor's Distinguished Educator Corps
- Provide standards-based, after-school programs

### **Rigorous Interventions**

- ADE identifies persistently lowest- achieving schools
- Ensure comprehensive approach to school interventions
- Implement receivership for failing LEAs

### **Additional Strategies**

- Provide strategies specific to rural schools, especially those serving Native American students
- Expand student-level interventions
- Extend learning times
- Implement E-learning
- Provide supports beginning in early childhood
- Provide theme programs

Council members engaged in discussion regarding the recommendations around the areas of: the North-Central Association system that already evaluates the current struggling schools; decision-making for schools and their districts; community outreach and involvement with schools in their areas (community education); and supporting pre-K and early childhood development.

### **Governor Brewer**

Governor Janice K. Brewer teleconferenced into the meeting at 2:30 p.m. from Washington, D.C. Governor Brewer pointed out the critical items that were being discussed today, including the Common Core Initiative, new assessments, teacher evaluations, alternative certification, and social promotion. She stressed to the Council that she understands that these issues are essential to K-12 education reform and never has she seen such an opportunity where we can craft how we want to take student achievement to the next level in our state. Governor Brewer thanked the Council, Task Force Chairs and members for their assistance and commitment expressing that this work will have a great impact on our future. Governor Brewer then asked the Council for any questions or comments. Dr. Peck informed the Governor that discussions have been going quite well with lots of input from all of the members. Dr. Peck expressed the Council's appreciation for the Governor's support for

the endeavors that the Council has been making to improve the education system in Arizona. Governor Janice Brewer left the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

### **Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems**

Cathleen Barton, Chair of the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Task Force, presented the updated strawman recommendations to the Council, which includes:

#### **Pre-K-12, Higher Ed, and Workforce**

- Entry to exiting longitudinal student data, including
  - Link to higher education
  - Link to K-12
  - Link to workforce
  - Link to preschool, early childhood

#### **Struggling Schools**

- Provide for student alerts and actionable reports
- Ensure interventions tracking/response to intervention framework
- Automation of compliance requirements
- Implementation of E-learning

#### **Academic Monitoring**

- Education Career Action Plan (ECAP)
- Implement Colorado growth model

#### **Standards and Assessments**

- Provide college- and career- readiness test score tracking
- Provide SKED course codes
- Provide on-line item bank/ formative assessment tools

#### **Great Teachers, Great Leaders**

- Tracking of training programs, evaluations data, etc.
- Implementation of E-learning

#### **Training and Communications regarding:**

- Data entry and data use training
- Broadband/ technology in the classroom
- Web-based portal
- Newsletter/ other communications
- School-site super users

#### **Data Collections**

- Implement EduAccess
- Create collaborative governance structure
- Provide student-teacher link
- Provide for link to other critical agencies (e.g., social services)
- Ensure state data audit system
- Address interstate data sharing

Council members engaged in discussion regarding the recommendations around the areas of: submitting data on individual teachers and courses for the purposes of linking to student achievement; governance; and collecting data from participating districts.

#### **5. Additional Comments from the Council**

Dr. Peck indicated that this agenda item was an opportunity for Council members to engage in additional discussion or comments. If necessary, this discussion will be continued at the meeting scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup>. With no concerns expressed or additional questions and comments, the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting is cancelled. Dr. Peck also noted that it was important that members remember that the P-20 work will continue beyond the filing of the RTTT grant application. Staff will be working to set the Council meeting information for 2010 and that information will be provided to the Council in the very near future.

#### **6. Call to the Public**

Dr. Carol Peck made a call to the public. There were four requests to address the Council.

Susan Carlson, representing ABEC, thanked the Council for all their work indicating that ABEC's school finance project will be enhanced because of the work being done.

Jim Pitofsky, representing the Arizona Community Foundation, commended the Council on their work, and indicated that he was working to assist Arizona in taking the lead in bringing together a consortium to address assessments.

Amanda Burke, representing the Center for the Future of Arizona, commented on the "move on when ready" initiative and work underway nationally in this regard.

Dr. Jay Cravath, representing the Colorado River Indian Tribes Education Department, spoke of the positives regarding the Harlem's Children Zone and urged the Council to take a look at this initiative, if they hadn't already. Dr. Cravath expressed concern about giving the local LEA having "too much leash".

#### **7. Adjourn**

Dr. Peck thanked the Task Force Chairs and their members for their hard work and dedication to ensuring Arizona's has a bold and innovative RTTT application. Special thanks to the BCG Team, Reggie Gilyard, Jody Foldesy, and John Pineda, for their leadership and countless hours of hard work in assisting Arizona in preparing its RTTT application.

There being no further business before the P-20 Council, Dr. Pauline Begay motioned, and Joel Sideman seconded, a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.